

Monday, April 25, 2011

Sara Howard: 314-650-3286 (c)

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(ST. LOUIS, MO) – As St. Louis recovers from tornado damage last Friday and prepares for the possibility of serious flooding in the coming days, Representative Russ Carnahan (MO-03) will tour Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and inspect flood preparations in Jefferson County.

Upon landing at Lambert Airport **at approximately 8:45 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 26, Carnahan will visit with airport officials and workers and volunteers** who have been working round the clock to get the airport fully operational again. Carnahan will provide an update on efforts to secure federal disaster assistance relief for families and businesses impacted by Friday's tornado.

Carnahan will then travel to **Crystal City, where he will tour area levees and meet with local officials and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers to review preparations for possible flooding** along the Mississippi and other rivers in the region.

“This past weekend’s storm was horrific, but I’m glad to see our community rallying to rebuild and help the families and businesses affected,” said Carnahan.

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“The worst thing about a tornado is you can’t see it coming.□ But we can predict a flood – and as the rain keeps falling, our region is in serious danger.□ We are actively communicating with communities throughout the region to try to avoid a second crisis, and to make sure we can respond immediately if any flooding does occur.”

Last Friday night, heavy storms and tornado winds caused serious damage throughout the greater St. Louis region, including at [Lambert-St. Louis International Airport](#) . Now, with continuing storms and rain forecasted, rising waters are threatening communities throughout Missouri. Hundreds of people in

[Poplar Bluff](#)

have been evacuated due to a failing levee along the Black River, and several rivers throughout the region are expected to crest above flood level this week.

People interested in volunteering in relief efforts can contact the United Way by calling 2-1-1. In addition, the American Red Cross is accepting donations at its website, www.redcrossstl.org , and over the phone at 314-516-2800.

Carnahan will be available for comment at both Lambert Airport and while visiting the Crystal City area.□ Interested media should contact Sara Howard at 314-650-3286.

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Russ Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Transportation Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings & Emergency Management, which has jurisdiction over the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).